United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region IV
POLLUTION REPORT

Date: Thursday, October 16, 2008
From: Richard Jardine

To: Matt Taylor, EPA R4
Barry Beeler, TN OSHA
Bob Alexander, TDEC
Gerald Webster, TDEC Knoxville EAC

Subject: First and Final
Rhone Medical Center Mystery Spill
412 Devonia Street, Harriman, TN

POLREP No.:	1	**Site #:**	A4WW
Reporting Period:	October 8 - 9, 2008	**D.O. #:**	
Start Date:	10/7/2008	**Response Authority:**	CERCLA
Mob Date:	10/7/2008	**Response Type:**	Emergency
Demob Date:	10/9/2008	**NPL Status:**	Non NPL
Completion Date:	10/9/2008	**Incident Category:**	Removal Action
CERCLIS ID #:	TND080976855	**Contract #**	
RCRIS ID #:			

Site Description
After the removal of believed source material from an alledged and closed methamphetamine production operation, the Rhone Medical Center contracted with Eagle Construction and Environmental Services to conduct an appropriate decontamination of the basement room involved. The medical center leases the outbuilding from the City of Harriman.

During preparation procedures for the decontamination event, one of the site workers toppled a glass jar whereby it fell and broke on the concrete floor, releasing its contents. EPA estimates the jar was less than one quart and the liquid contents are estimated to be approximately eight ounces or less.

The vaporization of the contents emitted a nondiscernible odor that both workers immediately observed despite their respiratory protection. The workers immediately collected themselves as a buddy unit,egressed the basement area, and decontaminated themselves to facilitate a hotwash of the accidental occurrence. One of the workmen quickly became nauseous and was treated symptomatically by the hospital.

Current Activities
Upon request from local officials, EPA responded to conduct field screening and try to identify the mysterious material and whether an imminent health risk is present due to the hazardous materials found in the basement.

EPA mobilized with START contractor TetraTech to conduct the field screening. On Wednesday October 8th, OSC Jardine and TTEMI consultants Croft and Jones conducted multiple Level B

entries with a cache of surveying equipment including the Ludlum Models 19 and 2241, the Rae Systems Multi-Rae, the Drager Multiwarn (each 4-gas meter fitted with CO and H2S toxic sensors), a monotox sensor for cyanide, the Lumex mercury vapor analizer, the Drager Chip Management System with cyanuric acid, ammonia, and total petroleum hydrocarbons chips, the Drager Civil Defense System kit, the Proengine AP2Ce, the Smiths Detection APD2000, and the ThermoFisher Scientific TVA 1000 photoionization and flame ionization detector. General screening results throughout this basement area were considered in normal operating ranges (i.e. rad at background of 10 uR/hr, O2 at 20.9%). Specific chemical indicators indicated ambient conditions below detection limits for the respective contaminants. The PID/FID measured a sustained reading of approximately 40 ppm with spikes elevating to 60 and a high of 70 as the instrument screened the back staircase that leads up to the RME (medical equipment supplier) tenant space.

The EPA team collected samples of miscellaneous wastes that were found in the basement including what appeared to be rusty/muddy water from a 35-gallon drum, used oil in a one-gallon milk jug, a solvent in a one-gallon steel paint can, and a gelatinous substance that was among the pieces of the broken jar. These substances were further screened using the AHURA ramaan spectroscopy meter. The oil was identified as a power steering fluid, the other materials behaved as polar substances (water-based).

START appropriately packaged all sample materials and arranged for laboratory analysis.

EPA briefed the hospital, local Fire and EMA officials regarding the findings.

On Thursday October 9th, EPA and START conducted a walk-through of the hospital and RME space which is located on the two floors above the basement room. The team also surveyed a separate basement area where files and other dry goods are stored by the hospital. The team used a 4-gas meter and the TVA 1000. Organic vapors were generally detected in the 20 ppm to 40 ppm range. The pathology lab routinely uses xylene and denatured alcohol in their processes.

EPA advised hospital personnel regarding the readings and demobed from the site.

Planned Removal Actions
Review the analytical data as it becomes available and inform the hospital regarding the results.

Key Issues
The building is very old and believed by hospital personnel to have historical significance. The survey team identified heavy growth of a mold-like substance within the building core, suspect asbestos-containing materials, water leakage, and potentially poor air exchange. EPA recommended that the hospital seek the professional guidance of an indoor air quality expert if those observations were of concern due to worker health.

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
RST/START	$0.00	$5,000.00	($5,000.00)	0.00%
Intramural Costs				

USEPA - Direct (Region, HQ)	$0.00	$1,000.00	($1,000.00)	0.00%
Total Site Costs	$0.00	$6,000.00	($6,000.00)	0.00%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

response.epa.gov/RhoneMedCtr